AFRL-Rome awards Information Research contract

by Fran Crumb, Information Directorate

ROME, N.Y. — The Air Force Research Laboratory (AFRL) Information Directorate has awarded a $7.1 million contract modification to BBNT Solutions Inc., of Arlington, Va., for research and development of long-term security architecture for the Global Command and Control Systems (GCCS) Leading Edge Services.

Under terms of the two-year agreement, the company will construct a Hawaii-based testbed at Pacific Command (PACOM) to support the operational experimentation (OPX) and technology transition goals of the Third Generation Security (3GS) program. The 3GS program consists of OASIS, Cyber Panel, SWWIM, Operational Experimentation, and Survivable Global Information Grid (GIG) program components.

The research is being sponsored by the Advanced Technology Office of the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA) of Arlington, Va.

"BBNT Solutions will conduct the work with three subcontractors: Secure Computing Corp., Boeing and NAI Laboratories," said Mary L. Denz, program manager in the Directorate's Defensive Information Warfare Branch.

"We will be working with DARPA on developing advanced information assurance technology and transitioning that technology to some of its partners, of which PACOM is a primary customer,"Denz said. "After the testbed is established, a variety of experiments will be conducted. We will then have potential users evaluate the technology as a precursor to fielding."

The GCCS allows joint commanders to coordinate widely dispersed units, receive accurate feedback, and execute more demanding, higher precision requirements in fast-moving military operations.

Information assurance is regarded as crucial to Department of Defense efforts to counter cyber aggression and meet the challenges of the information age. A broad range of potential threats exists to the military's information infrastructure and its ability to maintain information superiority in future conflicts.

DARPA's Advanced Technology Office researches, demonstrates, and develops high payoff projects in maritime, communications, special operations, command and control, and information assurance and survivability mission areas. It adapts advanced technologies into military systems and also exploits emerging technologies for future programs. The ultimate goal is superior cost-effective systems the military can use to respond to new and emerging threats.

The Third Generation Security Initiative is aimed at developing advanced mechanisms to secure the Defense Department's critical infrastructure systems against cyberattack.

Douglas J. Rosenthal of the directorate's Contracting Division negotiated the BBNT Solutions agreement. @